

**MINUTES OF THE CHEBSEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020 at 7 pm
IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHEBSEY**

Present: Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair
Councillor Richard Hopley, Vice Chair
Councillor John Green
Councillor Bob Jones
Councillor Julie Lawson

In attendance: Liz Harrington-Jones (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor David Davis
Councillor Peter Jones, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Councillors Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

1079 Welcome and Public Participation

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public in attendance and the Chair closed the public session of the meeting.

1080 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

There were no reports from Borough or County Councillors. The Clerk would request written reports for future meetings if Borough and County Councillors were unable to attend. **Action: Clerk**

1081 Declarations of Interest Cllr Hopley declared an interest in any items relating to Network Rail or HS2.

1082 Apologies were accepted from Cllr Davis who was self isolating following travel abroad, and from Cllr Jones (SBC) and Cllr Pert (SCC).

1083 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2020

Subject to the correction that Cllr Bob Jones had not attended and sent his apologies it was **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 September 2020 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

1084 Matters Arising,

The Clerk would remind SCC Rights of Way Team that secure handrails were still required at the entrance to Footpath 11. The correspondence would be copied to The Ramblers Association (1069). **Action: Clerk**

Improved access to All Saints' Church - the Clerk would send SCC information on applying for dropped kerbs to Cllr Green to assist with the church's application (1069). **Action: Clerk**

Vehicles were no longer parking on the road opposite the junction with Scannel Lane on the B5026, following a visit to the site by the PCSO (1070.iii).

Feedback on the SBC revised Local Plan had been received from SBC (Parish Forum) and circulated (1069).

New pads had been installed for the defibrillator at Norton Bridge. The WELMedical engineer had attended the defibrillator at Cold Norton and repairs could be effected for approximately £100 and this was agreed. Councillors agreed to alert residents to the need for replacement of the unit and investigate possible sources of future funding (1071.ii). **Action: Cllr Jones, Clerk**

The Clerk would contact SCC Highways about recent instances of flooding on the B5026 (1072.iii). **Action: Clerk**

1085 Planning

1085.i Planning decisions, Planning Appeals, and to consider any Planning Applications made

No planning decisions had been received since the previous meeting.

The following Planning applications had been received –

20/33001/HOU The Mount, School Lane, Chebsey - Proposed oak frame, clay tile carport built off existing retaining wall

RESOLVED That Councillors had no objection in principle, but were concerned that, as the application was for work within the curtilage of a listed building, any additional restrictions had been complied with.

20/330224/FUL Upper Heamies Farm, Meece Road, Cold Meece – Steel portal framed agricultural building

RESOLVED That Councillors had no comment to make on the above planning application
20/33186/HOU Rose Tree Farm, Stone Road, Norton Bridge - Detached double garage
RESOLVED - That Councillors had no comment to make on the above planning application

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should raise recent building works at Barncroft, Chebsey, with SBC Planning as no planning applications had been received in connection with any work on the site; also that the Clerk should confirm with the agent for the former equestrian centre on Eccleshall Road that the Parish Council does not feel a site visit would be beneficial as the Council’s concerns are over possible future traffic issues and a report from SCC Highways is still awaited. **Actions: Clerk**

The SBC Tree Officer had been asked for an update on the proposal to apply a TPO to an oak tree at Izaak Walton Fishery.

There had been no decisions made on the proposed caravan at Hilcote Park, Park Lane Chebsey, or the proposed Storage Depot at Cold Norton. The Clerk would contact SBC Cllr Jones and request an update on enforcement issues that had been raised. **Action: Clerk**

1085.ii Response to government proposals for changes to the current planning system

Councillors agreed to send any comments to the Clerk for incorporation into a response from Chebsey PC. **Action: All**

1086 Finance

1071.i Expenditure for October 2020

Clerk’s salary (October) and expenses 168.81 (Defib pads 39.54)	208.35
John Green Landscapes, grass cutting Norton Bridge recreation area	216.00
Chair, Covid travel expenses from SCC (Cllr Pert) funds for community shopping 100.00	<u>100.00</u>
Total expenditure	£524.35

RESOLVED That the expenditure for October 2020 of £524.35 was approved.

NatWest current account (25 September 2020)	6,358.65
(includes £100 from Cllr Pert for expenses incurred during Covid)	
less unrepresented cheques	<u>118.20</u>
	6,240.45
Less monthly expenditure	<u>524.35</u>
	5,716.10 balance

NB Payment of £3,567.00 precept has been notified on 1 October 2020 but not included in bank figure

1071.ii NALC, National Clerks’ Pay Agreement

RESOLVED To pay the nationally agreed pay award to the Clerk, backdated to 1 April 2020 at an approximate cost of £20.

1087 Highway and Footpath Matters

1087.i Footpath 18, obstruction – update on progress to resolve

No notification of progress or compliance had been received from SCC Rights of Way officers. The Clerk would follow up and contact The Ramblers Association. **Action: Clerk**

1087. ii The Brickle (also known as The Brittle) Footpath

Written confirmation from SCC to undertake future maintenance was still awaited. Two estimates had been received and after discussion it was agreed to accept the lower estimate for £545 to clear the Lane as far as possible of hedges and clear the floor. It was understood another large branch could then be removed and total clearance completed. A contribution of one half of the cost had been offered by the Friends of Norton Bridge; it was agreed that an application should be made to Chebsey Village Trust for a contribution towards funding. **Actions: Clerk**

RESOLVED That once written confirmation from SCC to accept responsibility for future maintenance of The Brickle/Brittle had been received, a quotation of £545 should be accepted with instructions issued to proceed; that an application for a contribution towards funding should be made to Chebsey Village Trust.

It was further agreed that the Clerk should write and thank the resident who had already removed one large branch from The Brickle/Brittle. **Action: Clerk**

Complaints had been received about effluent from a manure heap in the area flowing down The Brickle/Brittle and lanes in Chebsey village, and contaminating culverts and a water course. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact Environmental Health about the matter.

Action: Clerk

After discussion It was agreed that, working with The Ramblers Association, all applications for the reinstatement and registration of individual former footpaths in the Parish by 2026 would be treated sympathetically on their individual merits; it was noted that a number of former footpaths could by now be no longer viable or relevant. The Clerk would contact interested parties, and arrange to invite The Ramblers to attend a Parish Council meeting in early 2021.

Action: Clerk

The damaged gateway at the south entrance to Norton Bridge had been reported to the insurers. Mr Challoner was preparing an estimate for its replacement or repair as appropriate.

Loose chippings and no road markings at St Luke’s Close, Norton Bridge, would be reported to SCC Highways. A request would be submitted for the speed safety camera van to attend at Norton Bridge and also at Shallowford during commuter travel times.

Action: Clerk

Tree roots affecting the road surface at Norton Bridge opposite St Luke’s Church would be reported to SCC Highways.

Action: Clerk

A poplar tree hanging very low over the road at Hilcote Bridge, on the Hilcote Hall side, and in danger of losing a branch on the road would be reported to SCC Highways.

Action: Clerk

1088 Norton Bridge Recreation Area

The Clerk had requested an estimate of the likely cost of the sign to be attached to the gazebo from Visign Stafford and would circulate information on the cost and draft wording for the notice board to Councillors.

Action: Clerk

1089 HS2/Network Rail update

There have been no further details provided of the annual meeting to be held by Zoom between HS2 and Parish Councils along the route of the rail line. Cllr Jones had circulated an update to Councillors on SRCGs submission to the House of Lords and a newspaper report.

1090 Procedure for recruitment of Parish Clerk

Advertisements have been placed on the website, notice boards, SPCA weekly bulletin, and SLCC Facebook. The Clerk will circulate to Councillors draft questions for interview.

1091 Procedure to follow should the co-option process be approved by SBC for filling the vacancy on Chebsey Parish Council

After discussion Councillors agreed that should there not be a call from residents to hold an election, the Parish Council should follow the co-option process with all speed with a view to interviewing and co-opting at the November meeting.

1092 Correspondence received The Clerk reported the receipt of items of routine correspondence during lockdown; email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors.

1093 Items for the next Parish Council meeting should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible. It was hoped to begin the process for appointing a new Clerk; co-option to fill vacancy on Chebsey Parish Council; precept 2021/22.

1094 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of Chebsey Parish Council will take place on Monday 9 November 2020 in All Saints Church, Chebsey, at 7 pm. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Date.....Chair